693 3. The Third Stage (1953-55) The large-scale elimination of "old-established" personnel necessitated the training of new personnel as replacements. At the second session of the National Judicial Conference held in September 1953, a resolution was passed calling for the training of 200-500 judicial workers from each region.[16] Universities were told to strengthen their law schools, and students of political science and law were encouraged to work for the People's courts.

692 With regard to the gradual introduction of Communist concepts and techniques into the People's courts, effort was concentrated on the strengthening of judicial power at lower levels and the establishment of special courts in industrial and mining organizations. Progress was reported in July 1955 by Shih Liang, Minister of Justice. In the nation as a whole, 3,795 circuit courts and 157,966 mediation committees had been established.[17] In Ting-hsien, Hopei Province, four circuit courts were in operation, of which three were converted to People's tribunals[18] because it had been discovered that the tribunals spent less time over each trial and could settle in a given period more cases than could the circuit courts.

698 The establishment of special courts in industrial and economic organizations was first

16. People's Daily, Sept. 10, 1953, p. 1.
17. Ibid., July 30, 1955, p. 6.
18. Kuang-ming Jih-pao [Enlightenment Daily], July 9, 1955, p. 2.

692 provincial and local levels, the president of the court is elected by the respective People's congresses, but the president and members of the various adjudication committees are appointed by the People's council. By control of the People's council, the Communist Party's decisive role in the appointment of a responsible judiciary is assured. The establishment of people's tribunals on a broad foundation also has made possible the widespread use of terror. Whenever necessary, circuit hearings are held in villages and towns to which the power of the county People's court does not reach.

B. People's Procuratorates

693 In the North China Region, the Supreme People's Procuratorate exercised direct authority over the People's procuratorates in the several provinces. This relationship continued after the promulgation of the Constitution. Under the Supreme People's Procuratorate, similar offices have been organized at all levels of government down to the municipal ch'ü. In the past, the establishment of People's procuratorates has been encouraged, but organization in the North China Region is far from complete. At the Provincial Procuratorial Work Conference Hopei Province in February 1955, it was reported that during 1954 some 33 additional People's procuratorates had been established throughout the province.[20]

20. Survey of China Mainland Press, Hong Kong, American Consulate General, No. 998, March 2, 1955, p. 25.

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693 The use of the People's procuratorates as an organ of terror and control is manifest in the manner in which members of the People's procuratores are appointed. Article 21 of the Organic Law of the People's Procuratorates grants the power of appointment to the Supreme People's Procuratorate.[21] All Officers and members of the Provincial People's Procuratorate are appointed and removed by the Supreme People's Procuratorate, with the approval of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. In the same fashion the component members of the People's procuratorate in a city are nominated by the Provincial People's procuratore but are appointed by the Supreme People's Procuratore. The concentration of the appointment of procurators in the hands of the Supreme People's Procuratore has facilitated the Party's control over this important agency of suppression. Indeed, chief procurators and their deputies have been concurrently either high officials of the public department of security or Party members serving in the Department of Organization or on the control committees.

The People's procuratorate participated in all nationwide drives and campaigns. Chang Ting-ch'eng,[22] chief of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, speaking at the second session of the National People's Congress in July 1955, made

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21. English text in Current Background, No. 303, Nov. 5, 1954, pp. 8-9.

22. People's Daily, July 24, 1955, p. 2.

693 clear the tasks of the People;s procuratorates. They were instructed to concentrate their efforts upon the suppression of counterrevolutionaries and upon the establishment of procuratorates in all transportation centers and among the armed forces. The number of People's procurators increased almost ten times from 199 in September 1954 to 1,963 in July 1955. The number of personnel employed in these organizations increased from 6,963 to 12,155. Further expansion has been designed to cope with a reported increase in counterrevolutionary activit ies as they occurred throughout the nation..

II. PUBLIC SECURITY AGENCIES AND POLICE

625 With the possible exception of the armed forces of Communist China, public security agencies constitute the most important instrument of violence. Public security agencies exist in all organizations throughout the nation. They maintain close control over the entire populace and are authorized to make arrests to mete out punishment. They also have at their disposal the public security forces, and the police. By collaboratin with other terrorists agencies of the Communist Party and the armed forces, public security agencies exercize a profound psychological and physical coercion among the people.